



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION  
PSC BOX 8003  
CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 28533-0003

AirStaO 3000.2A  
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10 Jul 95

AIR STATION ORDER 3000.2A

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: BIRD AIRCRAFT STRIKE HAZARD (BASH) AND PROCEDURES

1. Purpose. To promulgate information and establish procedures for the protection of aircraft operating on or near Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, NC with respect to various bird hazards.
2. Cancellation. AirStaO 3000.2.
3. Information. The Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) falls into two general areas. One is the hazards caused by migratory birds and water fowl which utilize the Atlantic Coastal Flyways during the Spring and Fall. These birds tend to land and rest on or near rivers and streams and present a significant in-flight hazard within Cherry Point operating areas. The second hazard arises from the Air Station's proximity to the water. Sea gulls are a year round flight hazard and an airfield hazard during the Fall, Winter, and Spring, as they tend to congregate on runways and ramp areas, particularly in the early mornings.
4. Action. In order to minimize the hazards of birds and aircraft operating in the same airspace and ground space, the following actions are requested.
  - a. Director of Facilities
    - (1) Establish controls over grass mowing and/or herbiciding that will ensure maintenance of grass height of 5 to 8 inches adjacent to runways.
    - (2) Assist the Airfield Operations Department, as required, in the use of active bird dispersal devices to drive away birds which might be a hazard to aircraft from areas other than the runway environment.
  - b. Director of Operations
    - (1) Initiate previously developed procedures to alert aircraft of potential bird hazards and organize a bird dispersal team trained in the use of active dispersal devices to drive away birds creating hazards to aircraft around the airfield.

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(2) Initiate previously developed procedures to alert aircraft of potential/actual bird hazards in the Bombing Target-11 Complex.

c. Airfield Operations Department, MCAS Cherry Point

(1) Airfield Operations Officer. Oversee the BASH Countermeasure Operation at MCAS, Cherry Point and adjoining airspace.

(2) Operations Duty Officer (ODO). Keep a constant awareness of bird activity within Cherry Point aircraft traffic patterns and, in case of such activity, implement the following steps to disseminate information and implement action.

(a) Inform the Air Traffic Control Facility Officer (ATCFO) and Tower of position of bird hazard and ensure information is placed into the Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS).

(b) Notify Crash Crew and request they disperse birds. (They will be responsible for monitoring and using bird scaring devices including whistle bombs, acoustic devices, etc. NO LETHAL DEVICES OR TECHNIQUES).

(c) If bird problems persist, notify EAD, Natural Resources Manager to evaluate and make recommendations for solutions, coordinate with State and Federal Animal Damage Control Agencies, and Facilities Maintenance Department.

(3) OIC Crash Fire Rescue Officer

(a) Ensure Crash Crew personnel make visual check of runway environment each morning and provide ODO with immediate information of any bird hazards to include location, type, and number.

(b) Ensure Crash Crew Position Response (HOTSPOT) personnel advise the Tower or ODO of bird hazards.

(c) When the utilization of Crash Crew personnel for bird dispersion is deemed necessary by the ODO, obtain equipment, portable public address systems with bird distress cassettes, and attempt to disperse birds with acoustical means to include sirens. Inform the ODO of results. Every effort is to be made to chase the birds away.

(d) In the event nonlethal methods are unsuccessful, immediately inform the Tower or the ODO and notify Natural Resources Manager. Upon his arrival, provide assistance, access, and transportation to areas on the airfield. The Natural Resources

Manager will coordinate the use of Avitrol or other potentially lethal control measures with State and/or Federal Agencies when necessary.

(4) Air Traffic Control Facility Officer

(a) Ensure Tower personnel keep a constant watch for bird hazard activity and immediately advise the ODO if any hazards are observed or reported.

(b) Ensure Air Traffic Control (ATC) personnel disseminate bird hazards by all available means to aircraft in vicinity of Cherry Point. Ensure ATIS is current in reporting bird hazard activity.

(c) Ensure ATC personnel maneuver all aircraft away from bird hazards and men and equipment trying to countermeasure the hazard.

(d) Ensure all possible assistance is given to countermeasure personnel in receiving safe access onto the desired airfield areas.

(e) Ensure Flight Clearance personnel brief aircraft crews of applicable bird hazards in vicinity of Cherry Point at time of processing their flight plan.

(5) Weather Officer

(a) Ensure bird hazards as reported by the ODO be disseminated to the aircrew during time of weather brief.

(b) Ensure bird hazard activity information is placed on weather vision.


d. Airfield Operations Officer, Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field (MCALF) Bogue. Advise the Director of Operations, MCAS, Cherry Point of quantities of bird control equipment needed. Initiate previously developed procedures to alert aircraft of potential/actual bird hazards and organize a trained bird dispersal team. Comply with grass height management technique recommendations contained herein. A grass height of 5 to 8 inches is ideal for areas adjacent to runways.

e. Pilots. Inform the appropriate authorities (Tower, ATC, etc.) as soon as possible of any significant bird activity, near miss, or bird or animal strike to allow rapid dissemination of warning, and collection of appropriate data.

5. Summary of Revision. This Order contains major revisions and has been rewritten in its entirety.

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6. Concurrence. The Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (2dMAW) concurs with this Order insofar as it pertains to members of his command.



W. W. SCHEFFLER  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A-2 plus Airfield Operations Officer, MCALF,  
Bogue Field